

Scholar and Patron

Frederick J. Simoons Supports the ISI Honors Program through a Living Trust



Frederick J. Simoons was a graduate student when William F. Buckley Jr.'s *God and Man at Yale* rocked the academic establishment in 1951. Simoons admired the young author's fierce critique of higher education. "I followed Buckley's career subsequently," he recalls.

So he took notice when Buckley became president of a new organization fighting the leftward drift on campus: ISI. Bill Buckley, of course, would go on to found *National Review* and build a movement. Fred Simoons would enjoy a remarkable career of his own, becoming a leading scholar in his field. Yet for both men, the ISI connection endured.

In 2005 Fred Simoons and his wife established their multimillion-dollar living trust to endow the Honors Program. They determined that ISI was the "best alternative" to the higher education establishment—an organization committed to "choosing the best students and educating them about the Western tradition," as Dr. Simoons puts it. Dr. Simoons chose the Honors Program because he believes in investing in the very best students, the ones who are "going to go places."

This philosophy—that a small number of exceptional, principled leaders can have outsized influence on the culture—shapes ISI's entire approach.